

In Memoriam.

JOSEPH CASEY was born at Ringgold Manor, Washington county, Maryland, on the 17th day of December, A. D. 1814. He studied law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in the office of Judge Reed, and was admitted to the bar in the year 1838. He immediately began the practice of law in Bloomfield, Perry county, Pennsylvania, but subsequently removed to New Berlin in the same State. His success was rapid and brilliant. In the year 1848 he was elected to Congress, and served one term; but declining a renomination in 1850, he returned to the practice of his profession. In 1856 he was appointed reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, which position he held till the year 1861, when he was appointed by President Lincoln one of the Judges of the United States Court of Claims. On the reorganization of that Court, in 1863, he was appointed Chief-Justice, and held that position till December, 1870, when he resigned and resumed the practice of law in the District of Columbia.

In all the positions which he held JUDGE CASEY discharged his duties with eminent ability. At the bar he had no superior. His thorough mastery of legal principles, his keen dissection of evidence, and his magnetic power over the jury, will long be remembered by his brethren in Central Pennsylvania. His reports of the decisions of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania are characterized by a lucid style, and the clear presentation of the points involved in each case. But his opinions delivered from the bench of the Court of Claims will

constitute the most enduring monument of his reputation. They are marked by all the excellencies which distinguish the productions of the ablest jurists—vigorous reasoning, analytic power, and perspicuous style—all which he found abundant occasion to exhibit in dealing with the novel and difficult questions which came before the Court of Claims in the first years of its existence.

JUDGE CASEY was a ruling elder in the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church of Washington city, a faithful and earnest Christian, a devoted husband and father, and a warm and genial friend. He died on the 10th day of February, 1879, in Washington city, after a brief and painful illness. The funeral services took place in the New York Avenue Church, and were conducted by the Rev. S. S. Mitchell, D. D., assisted by the pastor of the church, Rev. John R. Paxton. For many years during Judge CASEY's connection with it Dr. Mitchell had been the pastor of that congregation, and had but recently been called to another field of labor. The sermon which he delivered on the occasion will be found below. The pall-bearers were Mr. Justice Wm. Strong, of the Supreme Court of the United States; Chief-Justice Drake, of the Court of Claims; Hon. Geo. Taylor, Judge Harris, Col. Wright, Mr. Wm. Ballantyne, Mr. Matthew Galt, and Mr. J. W. Thompson, and the remains were interred in Oak Hill Cemetery.

AND WHAT IS IT ALL, WHEN ALL IS DONE?

“The sun comes up, and the sun goes down,
And the day and the night are the same as one;
The year grows green, and the year grows brown,
And what is it all, when all is done?”

“Grains of sombre or shining sand
Sliding into or out of the hand.”

“And men go down in ships to the sea,
And a hundred ships are the same as one;
And backward and forward blows the breeze,
And what is it all, when all is done?”

“A tide with never a shore in sight
Setting steadily on towards night.”

And what is it all, when all is done?

Here, before us, lies the answer, graven with death's own hand.

Life's burden dropped, a peaceful sleep, a narrow house, the long unwaking—this is the all, when all is done.

Little did I anticipate, when last Sunday morning I stood up in this pulpit to ask of your hearts an answer to the question which constitutes the minor refrain of these verses, little did I think, as I was sounding in your ears the great truth of the utter vanity of the earthly life of man, that I should be obliged, before I left you, to point you unto an illustration so piercing to all our hearts, so sadly convincing to all our minds. And what is it all?

Easy enough is it for me in this presence to tell you what it is not. It is not continuance; it is not rest; it is not the end of desire; it is not the crown and consummation of human life.

Whitening heads, wrinkling faces, bending forms, weary hearts among the living, this day and evermore, join in with death's cold voice to emphasize the words of revelation, which declare, "This is not our rest: here we have no continuing city."

Pilgrims and strangers—pilgrims and strangers, passing on, passing through this world—this is evermore the truth, this is evermore the picture before our sight. Lift up your eyes upon earth's millions. Marching they are, with every passing day, a hundred thousand strong, into the shadows. Listen to the throbbing of your own hearts within your breast.

"Still, like muffled drums, they're beating
Funeral marches to the grave."

And where, in all this moving throng, is there a life which encloses peace, which has clasped to its heart the satisfying good, which has bound to its head the crown of fulfilled desire? Ah! there is no such one! Death interrupts the human life; strikes it down in the midst of its career; draws it up out of its forming plans; scatters to the winds the accumulation of years. A feverish dream, a broken shaft, a crumbling house, a world forgot, a life wiped out—this is the all, when all is done.

But is this all? To you, for whom the future frames not the image of the transfigured Christ, it must seem so. But, in an hour like this, I listen for the sweet, calm voice of Christian faith, and I catch her answer to our question. "No! by the God of love who reigns above, by the Jesus who died below, this is not all. There is yet more unto which the human life may reach, more unto which it may come, more to be left when all is done."

This more, my hearers, waits for the Christian life, and it is this: A good name for this world, and a good hope

for the world to come. The voice of the Spirit fills this hour, and it is to declare, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord! Yea, for they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." Rest there, and a blessed memory here: for the Christian, this is the all, when all is done. And it is the consolation of this hour that we lay to rest the form of one to whom this all now belongs, and belongs forevermore.

JOSEPH CASEY was a true, a genuine man. A true man, in this world of veneer, of unreality, of falsehood, how much this means! Day by day the cloaks are falling off from human lives; day by day the cloven foot is being shown; day by day sham and humbug are being pilloried before the gaze of the world. Many are not what they seem. But JOSEPH CASEY was! In his home, in the church, in the world, he was true, he was genuine. Go as far into him as you please, and you came unto no vile and noisome place. Trust him as far as you would, duplicity never rose to mock you. Cleave his life from centre to circumference, and the sections showed equally good throughout all their extent. And this is our sorrow to-day—our sorrow who knew and loved him. We have lost one who never mocked our confidence; one upon whom we could rely without the shadow of a suspicion, or the heart whisper of the vaguest fear.

But more than this. He was not only true, standing for a genuine man, but he was also large-hearted and generous. There are those who, although they be true, showing what they are, yet lift up a pinched and juiceless life. The little fossil is not a lie, but the little fossil is not bread—not bread for the friend life, or for the life of the world. The self-seeker, too, who sucks the world as he would an orange, he, too, may deceive no one.

The small man—cut on a scant pattern—too little of

stature to look over the fence which separates his own from his neighbor's weal, him, too, we may know for what he is. But there is something repulsive about the dwarf life, even when it does not masquerade on stilts.

But when truth and nobility meet together—when honesty and generosity kiss each other—then we have that unto which we can point the whole world, while we cry, “Behold! there is a man.” And such was JOSEPH CASEY. He despised meanness; he abhorred littleness of soul; his whole being loathed the tithing of mint, anise, and cummin, when offered as a man's service of God and humanity. In public life, in the high stations which he filled, in the circle of private friendship, in the church, his was the heart which devised liberal things. He stood for largeness, for progress, for generousness. He was noble in his conceptions of duty and honor. Princely he walked among men, his outward form testifying to the largeness of the soul within. Aye! princely he lies in his coffin to-day. No ordinary clay that—but a statute moulded by a Divine Artist for the inhabitation of a true and noble spirit.

And he was also tender and affectionate beyond almost any man I ever knew. I have seen him under the most trying circumstances, and I have never heard an ungentle word escape his lips. With the weak, with the suffering, with the querulous even, he was tender with a woman's tenderness. His patience, toward those who needed and had a right to this from him, never failed. To the sick-room he could go day after day, month after month, carrying always a bright face, a cheerful word, a helpful hand.

How he loved little children! His heart, early bereaved of his own, eagerly adopted the little ones around him. I have seen his face grow bright with a new happiness

if, perchance, he had borrowed from an adjoining pew a child to sit with him through the morning service. And then, if he could coax the little one into his arms and carry it down the aisle after the service was over, his cup was full. The brown curls of infancy, and his own white locks, as silken as the child's—how often has this aisle framed this beautiful picture before my eyes!

O thou true, noble man! thou wert as gentle as thou wert great, and the remembrance of thy tenderness touches my heart to-day.

And one word more I must say. In JOSEPH CASEY, nature's nobleness was supplemented and adorned and crowned by the graces of the Christian. Not upon his truth, not upon his honor, not upon his beautiful deeds of kindness, did he build his hope for eternity. O, no, no! This hope he lifted up out of the fountain of the Saviour's blood, and all crimson thus, he hid it away in his heart. Long before he became a member of the church, his heart could sing:

“I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thy abode:
The church our blest Redeemer saved,
With His own precious blood.”

And from the day that he first added his name to her communion, he loved this church with a loyalty that never faltered, and with a fervor that never cooled. O brethren of the New York Avenue Church, you do well to mourn to-day! You have lost one of your noblest members—one of your truest friends. In the day of your weakness, he stood for your defence—his home and his love the sheltering joy of your devoted and declining pastor. And now they have met. JOSEPH CASEY has again seen Dr. GURLEY; Dr. GURLEY has again taken to his heart JOSEPH CASEY.

And there, too, is—shall we forget, can we forget him?—there, too, is JOSEPH HENRY! What a trio of large, of nature's noble men—of Christ's saved ones. And to-day the angels point unto your church and say, "These men were born there; these men were nurtured there."

O brethren, may God make the future of your church worthy of such a past! May the memory of the departed be in all your hearts and lives, the power of the noblest and the purest inspiration.

And now, dear, kind, noble, true-hearted friend, if thou art to-day where thou canst hear the voice of human love, let me tell thee that my heart aches with a measureless sorrow over thy departure, and that I would rather be a mourner in the pew to-day than standing here to speak these broken tributes over thy bier.

But such as they are, take them, take them as my last adieu, until the day comes when I shall again see and love thee.

At the first meeting of the Session of New York Avenue Church after the funeral, the resolutions were adopted which will be found below. It is to be regretted that the addresses delivered on that occasion were not preserved, as they portrayed in eloquent language the various aspects of the character of the deceased, as viewed by the different speakers.

The resolutions are as follows :

At a meeting of the Session of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church of Washington, D. C., held February 20, 1879, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted :

Whereas, it has pleased an all-wise Providence to remove from our midst our beloved friend and associate in the Eldership, JOSEPH CASEY ; and

Whereas in his death we have lost a wise and judicious counsellor, and this church one of its best and purest members ; as a Session, we have had intimate intercourse with our late associate, and can recall with comfort and encouragement to ourselves the many virtues and Christian graces which adorned his character, and which constituted him of the noblest and purest types of true manhood : therefore,

Resolved, That to his widow we tender our sincere and heartfelt sympathy, and join our grief with hers in this deep and sad affliction.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the widow of our deceased brother, as a testimony of our admiration for his virtues, and our common grief for his loss ; and that the same be entered on the records of the church.

Witness our hands :

JOHN R. PAXTON, *Moderator* ;
WM. L. WALLER, *Clerk* ;
WM. BALLANTYNE,
W. STRONG,
CHAS. B. BAILEY,
A. R. QUAIFFE.

UPON the announcement of the death of Judge CASEY the Court of Claims adjourned, and the members of the bar of that and the other Courts held a meeting and passed the resolutions that will be found below. These resolutions were drafted by a committee composed of his friends and professional associates, who endeavored, as far as they could in the limited space allowed, to portray the more conspicuous qualities of the deceased. The proceedings of the meeting were of the most interesting character, and were marked by a display of feeling to a degree seldom witnessed on such occasions, and by an entire absence of the conventional formalities which sometimes take the place of genuine emotion. Many members of the bar—the younger, as well as the older—gave utterance to their sorrow, and bore testimony to the worth of the deceased.

The resolutions were presented to the Court of Claims by Assistant Attorney-General Simons, with appropriate remarks, to which Chief-Justice Drake responded.

The resolutions reported by the committee are as follows:

Resolved, That we have heard with sincere sorrow of the death of our brother, the Hon. JOSEPH CASEY, for many years Chief-Justice of the Court of Claims, and more recently an attorney and counsellor of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Court of Claims, and the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

Resolved, That we entertain a high sense of the unfailing patience, impartiality, and love of justice which characterized the deceased while on the bench, and of the learning and research displayed in his rulings and opinions, and we will ever hold in affectionate remembrance the fairness and courtesy which marked his bearing towards his brethren of the bar, the genuine kindness which governed his social intercourse, his public spirit and liberal views as a

citizen, and the fidelity with which he responded to the call of duty in every relation of life.

Resolved, That we sympathize with his family in their affliction, and tender to them the expression of our sincere condolence.

Resolved, That we will attend the funeral of the deceased in a body, and wear the customary badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That the Assistant Attorney-General be requested to present these resolutions to the Court of Claims, and that a copy thereof be transmitted by the Secretary to the widow of the deceased.

To these resolutions Col. J. Madison Cutts moved the addition of the following; which, with the resolutions reported by the committee, were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That no tribute of respect can do full justice to his memory which does not record the love and affection with which the junior members of the bar, with one accord and in a most marked and especial manner, regarded him.

Entitled by virtue of his high personal qualities, generous nature, and vast attainments, to be considered one of the great lights and fathers of the profession, he was ever ready to extend a helping hand to younger lawyers, and to give them the fullest benefit of his own experience and learning, and he will always be held by them in grateful remembrance.

JNO. D. McPHERSON,
THOS. W. BARTLEY,
THOS. J. DURANT,
THOS. SIMONS,
WM. PENN CLARKE,
Committee.

F. W. DOUGLAS,
Chairman.

A. HOPKINS,
Secretary.

Other bodies with which the deceased was connected passed resolutions expressive of their feelings, among which are the following :

At a called meeting of the students and alumni of the National University, at their lecture room, in the Sprague mansion, 601 E street, held last evening, to take into consideration the death of Professor JOSEPH CASEY, J. W. F. Williams was called to the chair, and Horace Piper and J. R. Randall appointed secretaries, when the following resolutions were adopted :

Whereas the sad intelligence of the death of the Hon. JOSEPH CASEY, LL. D., has been received with sorrow by the community which for so many years he has by his public and private virtues so eminently advanced ; and

Whereas the deceased has for the last nine years occupied the position of Professor in this University, and has taken a deep interest in its success : therefore,

Resolved, That the friends of this University, as well as the community at large, have in this bereavement been deprived of one of its most efficient and worthy members, and that it is with emotions of profound sorrow that we pay this tribute of respect to the memory of one who secured, while living, the esteem and admiration of all with whom he was associated, and who had attained an enviable position at the bar and upon the bench, and by his many virtues had endeared himself to the community.

Resolved, That the students and alumni of this University attend the funeral of the deceased in a body.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

Copy of resolutions passed February 14, 1879, by the Board of Trustees of the Mutual Protection Fire Insurance Company :

Whereas, in His wisdom, our heavenly Father has seen fit to remove from his field of usefulness our friend and associate, Hon. JOSEPH CASEY, a member of our board from its organization ; and

Whereas we deem it our duty as well as our privilege to commemorate our sense of the loss we have sustained : therefore,

Resolved, That we shall greatly miss from our counsels one who had endeared himself to us all by his nobility of character, his childlike simplicity and genial manner, and who was at all times firm for the right as his light gave him to see it ; who never failed of his duty, even when in fulfilling it his sympathies were tried, and his best nature grieved.

Resolved, That in our friend's death we have lost in our business relations a wise, upright, and capable man, of whom it can well be said he was a peer among his peers in this, as in all other walks.

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to have an engrossed copy of these resolutions transmitted to the widow of our late friend.

JAMES E. FITCH,
Secretary.

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